



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
May 18, 2009
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

V. Spencer, D. Sterner, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, M. Baez, S. Marmarou, S. Fuhs, J. Waltman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, R. Hottenstein, D. Hoag, C. Jones, K. Mooney, representatives of Hill Weston, representatives of Black & Veatch

Mr. Spencer, President of Council, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. Executive Session

Council entered executive session at 5:04 pm to discuss litigation. Council exited executive session at 6:10 pm. The members of the Administrative Oversight Committee were excused to attend the scheduled interviews with prospective candidates for the appointments to the City Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

II. Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ)

Mr. Boscov, Mr. Swoyer, Mr. Mayes, Mr. Wright and Mr. Cooper arrived at the meeting. Mr. Boscov stated that there is interest in extending KOZ relief to 48 undeveloped properties around Reading. New State legislation allows communities to extend the KOZ period for seven additional years by decertifying properties previously designated as KOZ properties.

In 1998 the City approved KOZ relief for a number of undeveloped properties around Reading. KOZ tax-free benefits stimulated the development of ten sites. These ten sites will come off the KOZ program in 2013. Mr. Boscov noted the large increase in the properties' appraisals and assessments which will generate \$500,000 in property tax revenue for the City after 2013.

Mr. Boscov stated that he suggests adding properties such as 7th and Penn, 8th and Oley Outlet Center, Garden State Tanning, Dana North, Penn Optical, etc. This can be accomplished by decertifying the 88 acre Wastewater Treatment Plant parcel. He stated that the Hershey and Glidden properties are currently not being considered for the KOZ extension. Mr. Boscov noted the need for Council to approve this transaction by approving a three resolution package before the end of May. Those present agreed to place the resolution package on Tuesday's agenda.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC
City Clerk